

indefinitely postpone 687.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, I wish to withdraw that motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: It is withdrawn. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Haberman was kind enough to allow me to attempt to put on an amendment to the bill and to hopefully let it pass without further additional significant controversy. Obviously, I got my plow cleaned yesterday and, obviously, the body is not particularly interested in making the Auditor a CPA. I hope that that doesn't mean though that the body is not interested in any qualifications upon that office because it is really a very important office. And I am assuming that a large part of the opposition coming from the accountants who are not CPAs from the fact that they are precluded from that office by virtue of not being CPAs, so what the amendment does, it simply says that the person who is to be the Public Auditor at the time that they run for the office should possess a baccalaureate degree conferred by an accredited college or university at the time of his or her election. So it does put an education requirement there. That would bring us into conformance with a majority, a very strong majority of the states in the union who either require a CPA which, of course, are qualifications far beyond this suggestion or have experience qualifications or educational qualifications such as this and that doesn't count, of course, those who appoint the Auditor which is even going beyond what we are doing. So I am suggesting to you and I hope you have a mind to accept a compromise on this. This is essentially the compromise that was offered to me by the accountants before we started this whole thing which I did not have the good sense to accept, but I offer it to you at this time and hope you will adopt it and hope the bill can pass on through Select File and Final Reading without even further discussion. It would not be my intent to raise the question of the Auditor being a CPA for the remainder of this session